



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
Samuel Unger, Executive Officer

March 7, 2013

Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer's Report is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but rather highlights of Regional Board staff activities from the previous month.

*Our mission is to preserve
and enhance the quality of
California's water resources
for the benefit of present and
future generations.*

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Watershed Management

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) is a partnership of public agencies working cooperatively to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands and watersheds between Point Conception and the International border with Mexico. Using a non-regulatory approach and an ecosystem perspective, the WRP works to identify wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepare plans for these priority sites, pool funds to undertake these projects, implement priority plans, and oversee post-project maintenance and monitoring. The WRP is headed by a Board of Governors (BOG) comprised of top officials from each of the participating agencies. The Wetlands Managers Group serves as an advisory group to the BOG and is composed of staff-level agencies' representatives; the Watershed Coordinator serves on the Managers Group.

The WRP released a Request for Pre-Proposals in November 2012 in anticipation of the BOG approving an updated Project Workplan later in 2013. Applicants were asked to attend pre-proposal meetings with the Managers Group on January 17 and 24, and February 6, to receive input on the pre-proposals prior to the Managers Group selecting which applicants should submit full proposals.

Integrated Regional Water Management Meetings

The Watershed Coordinator participated in meetings of Integrated Regional Water Management committees including those for the Greater Los Angeles County Region's Upper Los Angeles River Subregion on January 22 and the South Bay Subregion on February 5; she also attended a meeting of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County Region's Ventura River Watershed Council on February 7.

Other Watershed/Technical Meetings

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the City of Los Angeles is undertaking development of an Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study for a portion of the Los Angeles River (from around Griffith Park to downtown) as well as the Headworks spreading grounds site adjacent to the river and just upstream of Griffith Park. The Watershed Coordinator is on the Habitat Evaluation Team for this effort. The Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is expected to address multiple issues including lost riparian habitat (with associated native species), limited ecological function, reduced groundwater infiltration, poor water quality, and lack of recreation/open space.

A wetlands restoration feasibility study has been completed for the Ormond Beach Wetlands by the State Coastal Conservancy and its consultants. The status of restoration planning work and other issues of concern, such as water quality, are discussed at

Ormond Beach Task Force meetings; the most recent one was held on January 31.

More information about the Regional Board's watersheds can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/regional_program/index.shtml#Watershed.

Regional Program

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program

Valerie Carrillo Zara and Dana Cole

Since the previous report, the Regional Board has received 11 new applications for Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) actions. The following Certification actions have been issued since the preparation of the last Executive Officers Report:

Date of Issuance	Staff	Applicant	Project	Action
12/05/2012	Dana Cole	Port of Long Beach	Fireboat Station #20 Relocation	Conditional WQC
12/05/2012	Dana Cole	Los Angeles County of Sanitation District	Union Street Trunk Sewer	Conditional WQC
12/17/2012	Valerie Carrillo Zara	Gate-King Properties, LLC	Gate King- industrial Park Tract	Conditional WQC
01/23/2013	Valerie Carrillo Zara	California State Parks	Malibu Pier Repairs	Conditional WQC
01/29/2013	Valerie Carrillo Zara	Ventura County Watershed Protection District	J Street Drain	Conditional WQC

Certification actions recently issued and project descriptions for applications currently being reviewed can be viewed from our Web Site located at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/meetings/401wqc.html>. For additional information regarding our Section 401 Program, please contact Valerie Carrillo at (213) 576-6759. Any petitions for the appeal of a Section 401 WQC action must be filed within 30 days of the date of its issuance. We encourage public input during the certification process.

Newhall Land & Farming Proposed Resource Management and Development Plan (RMDP) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)

On September 14, 2012, the Regional Board issued Order No. R4-2012-0139 for the Newhall Land & Farming RMDP. Currently, the Regional Board has received the following two documents, which have been posted on the Regional Board's web page:

- Annual Report Outline, December 2012
- Aquatic Nuisance Species HACCP Plan, December 2012

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/water_issues/programs/401_water_quality_certification/NewhallLand.shtml

Los Angeles Soft Bottom Channel Maintenance Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)

On February 4, 2010, the Regional Board, issued Order No. R4-2010-0021, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the maintenance of earth-bottom channels by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District). In accordance with the WDR, the District is required to determine where a potential may exist for native vegetation to remain within the soft-bottom portion of the channels or if additional hydraulic capacity is needed. The District has drafted a Work Plan for the proposed Feasibility Study of channels in the

San Gabriel River Watershed. This Work Plan outlines how the San Gabriel River Watershed study will be conducted.

At this time, the District is soliciting comments from interested stakeholders on the proposed the Work Plan. The comment period began on February 14, 2013, and will close at 5 p.m. on March 14, 2013. The Work Plan and the WDR can be accessed online through the following link:

<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/LACFCD/WDR/sgriver.aspx>

In addition, the Regional Board has developed a dedicated informational website page for all updates, reports, and correspondence related to this permit. The page can be found through the following link within the Section 401 Water Quality Certification page:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/water_issues/programs/401_water_quality_certification/FloodControl.shtml

Watershed Regulatory Program

Marina del Rey Debris Complaint

Michael Lyons

In November 2012, recreational divers complained to local regulatory agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Coastal Commission and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board) about large amounts of trash observed while diving offshore from Veteran's Park in the vicinity of Marina del Rey. The divers indicated that no trash had been observed until after the contractor began dredging and disposal operations nearby. Therefore, the divers contended that the trash originated from sandy material dredged from the Ballona Creek entrance channel by a contractor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and disposed into nearshore coastal waters for beach replenishment. Susie Santilena, Heal the Bay, brought this issue to the attention of Board members during public forum comments at the December 6, 2012, Board meeting.

Contaminated Sediment Task Force (CSTF) members discussed this problem at the November 28, 2012, and January 23, 2013, monthly meetings of the Dredged Material Management Team. We learned that the contractor screened sandy dredged material destined for placement directly on the beach and removed large amounts of trash. However, the dredged material destined for placement in nearshore waters adjacent to the beach was not screened for trash removal, since the contractor did not believe that trash would be present in the areas that were dredged to obtain that material.

CSTF members could not find any definitive proof to show that the dredging operation was responsible for the trash observed by divers at the Veteran's Park dive site. However, CSTF members agreed that measures should be taken in the future to ensure that disposal of dredged material for beach replenishment does not cause a trash problem or any other water quality problem.

The CSTF members several measures that could be implemented in the future, including requiring pre-discharge and post-discharge diver surveys in the disposal area to look for trash, requiring screening to remove trash from all dredged material to be used for beach replenishment (whether material is placed directly on the beach or discharged into the nearshore coastal zone), or developing a sampling method to characterize the amount of trash present prior to initiating dredging. While these measures or others may be selected for future projects, CSTF members proposed to defer the development of a set of new requirements to deal with potential trash problems, since it probably will be a few years before dredging and beach replenishment will occur again in the Ballona Entrance Channel area.

Groundwater Permitting and Land Disposal Program

Spill of Landfill Gas Condensate at Lopez Canyon Landfill, City of Los Angeles

Douglas Cross

The Lopez Canyon Landfill (Landfill), which is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), is a closed Class III municipal solid wastes disposal facility located at 11950 Lopez Canyon Road, in the Lake View Terrace District of the City of Los Angeles, California. The Landfill operated from October 1975 to July 1996, completed final closure in February 2011, and is currently under post-closure maintenance under waste discharger requirements included in Regional Board Order No. R4-2004-0176. The Landfill is maintained as open space, with a green waste recycling and composting facility operated on a portion of the top decks. Condensate is produced by the gas collection system of the Landfill and an on-site gas-to-energy plant that utilizes the gas to generate electricity. The condensate, along with leachate extracted from the Landfill, is stored onsite in tanks, treated as necessary, and then discharged to the sanitary sewer system as permitted by the City.

On January 18, 2013, BOS informed Regional Board staff of a release of condensate that was discovered around 10:30 AM that day. The spill originated from one of the leachate/condensate storage tanks located along the haul road, entered a debris basin outside of the Landfill entrance, and may have reached a concrete storm drain that discharges to the Hansen Dam approximately two miles away downstream. BOS stopped the spill immediately and made effort to contain the released liquid. A private contractor was hired to clean any contamination that may have caused by the spill.

In response to the incident, Regional Board staff inspected the Landfill on January 23, 2013. Staff observed that the impacted tank and concrete tank containment, swale, and debris basin were being cleaned up under the direction of a Los Angeles County Fire Department HazMat officer. Soil that was potentially contaminated by gas condensate was excavated from the debris basin and contained in roll-off bins to be disposed of off-site. Absorbent socks were deployed at the storm channel. A pond of liquid in the storm drain channel near the Hansen Dam, which was suspected to be condensate spilled from the Landfill, was being purged for proper disposal. Liquid samples were collected from storm drain for fingerprint analysis to confirm whether condensate reached Hansen Dam or not.

Cleanup activities for the spill were completed on January 24, 2013. BOS and its consultants are now preparing a detailed report for the cleanup activities to be submitted to the Regional Board. Staff will review the report to evaluate the environmental impact of the spill, determine if further corrective action should be required, and take appropriate enforcement actions.

Updates of Malibu Septic Prohibition Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Eric Wu

On January 30, staff met with City of Malibu (City) Staff for Septic Prohibition MOU implementation update. The Malibu City Council, on January 28, 2013, has reauthorized the expenditure of 3.8 million dollars to continue the tasks specified in the MOU. The upcoming tasks include:

1. Response to the Regional Water Board's comments on ReInjection Plan and Storage Plan by March 18, 2013
2. Complete and submit Certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) by March 31, 2013.
3. Complete and submit the design for the wastewater treatment facility by June 30, 2013.

The City Manager, Mr. Jim Thorsen, in his presentation to the Regional Board on December 6, 2012 indicated that the EIR, design of wastewater treatment facility and the subsequent tasks will have approximately

9 months delay. To avoid further delay, Regional Board staff has requested the City to submit intermediate milestones for each task to monitor the progress of EIR preparation and design of facility. In addition, the City plans to drill one injection well near Legacy Park area and 5 monitoring wells with various depths (total 8 monitoring wells with 3 existing wells) to further model the aquifer response during injection. The well installation work plan will be submitted and reviewed by the Regional Board staff.

Compliance and Enforcement Program

City of Avalon Cease and Desist Order

Russ Colby/LB Nye

The City of Avalon was issued Cease and Desist Order R4-2012-0077 in April of 2012 which included a TMDL for fecal indicating bacteria (FIB). Provision 28 of the Order requires a report to the Executive Officer describing how the City of Avalon intends to comply with the wasteload allocations of the TMDL. The proposed Compliance Plan has been received and is available on the Regional Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/enforcement/CDOAvalon.shtml.

The proposed Compliance Plan details several additional source assessment studies that the City of Avalon undertook in the Summer and Fall of 2012 documenting the movement of shallow groundwater from some locations into Bay waters and the contributions of birds to FIB levels in Bay waters. The Plan also identifies a positive, multiprong, implementation strategy.

NPDES Facility Inspections

The Enforcement Unit NPDES inspector conducted inspections at 4 facilities with NPDES Permits. Inspection of these facilities is a required part of the NPDES program.

Expedited Payment Program:

Stipulated Order on Settlement Offer No. R4-2012-0154 was issued to Ultramar, Inc. dba Valero Wilmington Refinery on December 14, 2012 in the amount of \$24,000 for alleged effluent violations of the NPDES Permit for Wilmington Marine Terminal, Berth 164. The full payment was received on January 3, 2013.

Stipulated Order on Settlement Offer No. R4-2012-0100-M was issued to RWDI Detroit & Hauser L.P. on January 3, 2013, in the amount of \$6,000 for alleged effluent violations of Regional Board Order No. R4-2003-0111, NPDES No. CAG994004 for 435 Detroit. The full payment was received on January 15, 2013.

Stipulated Order on Settlement Offer No. R4-2012-0157 was issued to Chinatown Gateway, LLC on January 7, 2013 in the amount of \$15,000 for alleged effluent violations of the NPDES Permit for the Chinatown Los Angeles Project. The full payment was received on January 22, 2013.

Stipulated Order on Settlement Offer No. R4-2012-0145 was issued to the City of Beverly Hills on January 18, 2013 in the amount of \$99,000 for alleged effluent limit violations of the NPDES Permit for Parking Site "A" South. The full payment was received on January 30, 2013.

Stipulated Order on Settlement Offer No. R4-2012-0167 was issued to the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority on January 31, 2013 in the amount of \$3,000 for an alleged effluent violation of the NPDES Permit for Former JAB Holdings Inc. The full payment was received on February 5, 2013.

Stipulated Order on Settlement Offer No. R4-2012-0151 was issued to Douglas Emmett Management, LLC on January 31, 2013 in the amount of \$24,000 for alleged effluent limit violations of the NPDES Permit for Century Park Plaza. The full payment was received on February 11, 2013.

Settlement Offer No. R4-2013-0004 was issued to the City of Avalon on January 14, 2013 in the amount of \$3,000 for alleged effluent and reporting violations of the NPDES Permit for the Avalon Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Permittee has until February 13, 2013 to respond.

13267 Investigative Orders

13267 Investigative Order to Submit Information No. R4-2012-0178 was issued to the City of Beverly Hills on December 19, 2012 for information related to the unauthorized discharge of raw sewage on December 4, 2012. A response was received on January 7, 2013.

13267 Investigative Order to Submit Information No. R4-2013-0001 was issued to the US Army Corps of Engineers on January 10, 2013 for information related to the removal of vegetation in the Sepulveda Basin reported on December 29, 2012. A response was received on February 11, 2013

Remediation

Former Kast Tank Farm Property, Carousel Residential Neighborhood Tract, Carson

The activities related to the site investigation and cleanup work performed during the months of January and February 2013 include the following:

1. On January 17, 2013, the Regional Board completed the review of the document titled *Bioventing Pilot Test Summary Report* that summarizes the bioventing pilot test completed at six properties of the Carousel Tract, and issued a response. Based on the information submitted in the Report the bioventing pilot testing has been found to be an effective remedial method in enhancing microbial degradation of hydrocarbons in the subsurface at the Site. Therefore, the Regional Board staff favorably reviewed the bioventing remedial technology and ordered Shell to develop a property-specific full-scale bioventing remedial design plan for the Carousel Tract.
1. On January 23, 2013, the Regional Board issued a response to Mr. Robert Bowcock's (IRM) letter dated January 9, 2013. The letter provided clarification on the status of the expert panel commission, pilot testing schedule and related concerns.
1. On January 31, 2013, the Regional Board issued a response on the Review of the *Status Report for Remedial Excavation and In-Situ Pilot Testing* dated January 21, 2013.
1. On February 8, 2013, the Regional Board completed the review of the document titled *Excavation Pilot Test Report for 24612 Neptune Avenue* and issued a response letter. The report describes the activities and results of a slot-trenching excavation approach to remove impacted soils to a depth of 10 feet below ground surface and the concrete reservoir residual slabs. Based on the information submitted in the Report and Regional Board staff observations of the work performed at this home, the noise, odor and vapor impact mitigations have achieved acceptable levels. The excavation approach also effectively removed impacted soils and residual concrete reservoir slab to a depth of 10 feet below ground surface. In addition, the excavation pilot test showed that the concrete reservoir slab appeared intact and continuous throughout the excavation floor with no visible perforations.

On February 8, 2013, the Regional Board received copies of the Air Quality Management (AQMD) inspec-

tion records in relation to the conduct of excavation pilot test at 24612 Neptune Avenue and the records associated with bioventing pilot testing. The records indicate that AQMD inspectors observed no violations of the air quality rules during the pilot test operations.

On February 15, 2013, the Regional Board completed the review of the document titled *Excavation Pilot Test Report* for 24533 Ravenna Avenue and issued a response letter. Based on the information submitted in the Report and Regional Board staff observations of the work performed at this home, the surgical excavation approach is technically feasible in similar back yard site soils and ordered Shell to consider a full-scale surgical excavation design as one of the technologies to be proposed in the upcoming Remedial Action Plan.

Regional Board and OEHHA staff completed the review of twenty five (25) *Follow-Up Phase II Indoor Air and Sub-Slab Soil Vapor Sampling Reports* and one (1) *Final Interim Residential Reports* and on January 15, 2013 and January 29, 2013 issued a directive outlining a follow-up action.

The completed residential sampling activity as of January 23, 2013 is as follows:

- 265 homes have been screened for methane (93%);
- 265 homes have had soils sampled and vapor probes installed (93%);
- 262 homes have had sub-slab soil vapor probes sampled (92%); and
- 194 homes have had indoor air sampled (68%).

Former Athens Tank Farm / Ujima and Earvin Magic Earvin Johnson Regional Park, Los Angeles

The activities related to the environmental site investigation of the Former Athens Tank Farm during the months of January and February 2013 are summarized as follows:

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration is proposed, because the draft Phase 1 RAP activities will not have a significant negative effect on public health and the environment. On January 22, 2013, The California Fish and Wildlife Department denied a No effect Determination Request associated with the draft cleanup plan called a Phase 1 Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to address contaminated soil and groundwater at the former Athens Tank Farm site. Without a valid No-Effect Determination Form, CEQA requires the Regional Board to pay the project filing fee. At this time, ExxonMobil on behalf of the Regional Board has paid the fee to the Los Angeles County Clerk who then provides a copy of the Environmental Filing Fee receipt. Subsequent to this process, the Regional Board will file the Notice of Completion with the State Clearinghouse and issue the conditional approval of the RAP.

2. The Regional Board received a document titled *Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Report* dated January 11, 2013. The report describes the installation of on-Site groundwater monitoring wells pairs (ATF-20A&B - shallow and deep wells) as directed by Regional Board to further assess the groundwater quality below the southern portion of the footprints of the larger reservoir where significant vadose zone impacts have previously been detected.

The Regional Board also received Fourth Quarter 2012 Groundwater Monitoring Report dated January 15, 2013. The report documents the results of 20 well pairs monitored in two zones beneath the Site: (1) the shallow, potentially perched zone, and (2) the zone interpreted to correspond to the Exposition Aquifer. the shallow water-bearing zone has been measured at depths ranging from 37 to 48 feet below ground surface (bgs), and groundwater in the deep water-bearing zone has been measured at depths ranging from 105 to 130 feet bgs

On January 15, 2013, the Regional Board received the *Monthly Off-Site Soil Vapor Monitoring Report* summarizing the findings of off-site methane monitoring performed during the month of December 2012. Monitoring was performed in 26 soil vapor probes at nine probe locations. The instrument

readings for methane were above the 5,000 ppmv (0.5 %) threshold in two of the nine shallow 5-foot soil vapor probes monitored (SV-134 and SV-159). The Regional Board directed step-out investigation of the two locations where exceedances were reported.

The report also noted that monitoring of the utilities along El Segundo Boulevard, residential crawl spaces at the intersection of El Segundo Boulevard and Keene Avenue, and the Los Angeles Adventist Academy buildings, were not performed due to the lack of access agreements that have yet to be executed for these properties.

The Regional Board completed the review of the document titled *Supplemental Soil Vapor Delineation Work Plan* and on January 22, 2013 issued a response. The response includes approval of the work plan with conditions ordering ExxonMobil to prioritize sampling of the adjacent school properties: the Adventist Academy, Centennial High School and the Animo Watts Charter High School.

The DTSC and Regional Board are currently working with the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to conduct a community meeting to answer who can conduct public health assessment of the area. A local community group has requested that ATSDR conduct a public health assessment within the Willowbrook community. ATSDR is a federal agency which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Underground Storage Tanks

Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites

Yue Rong

Regional Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and/or groundwater contamination problems from leaking underground storage tanks for the time of **November 1, 2012** through **January 4, 2013**, and determined that no further corrective actions are required for the following sites:

1. Exxonmobil Station #18-KQD, Tarzana (913564089)
2. Shell Station, Los Angeles (913030689)
3. Webb's Auto truck Services, Bell Gardens (I-10832A)
4. Winall Oil Company #5, Gardena (I-13611A)
5. Shell Service Station, Torrance (R-26329)
6. Parker Center, Los Angeles (900120352)
7. Former Unocal Station #7252, Lawndale (I-11076)
8. 76 Service Station No. 255230, La Puente (R-24712)
9. 7-Even/Southland Corporation #26945 (R-12155)
10. Shell Station #204-4534-2700, Los Angeles (900330170)
11. Virco Manufacturing Corp, Los Angeles (902470134)
12. ARCO Station #1992, Northridge (913240707B)
13. Former Santa Fe ARCO and Mini Mart, Huntington Park (I-05445A)
14. ARCO Station No. 1904, San Fernando (913401916)
15. Unocal Station No. 5317, Gardena (R-05812)
16. National construction Rentals, Montebello (R-09735A)
17. Shell Oil Company, Sun Valley (913522498A)

For the case closure sites above, a total of **3,656** tons of impacted soils were excavated and **63,841** pounds of hydrocarbons were removed by soil vapor extraction system. In addition, **1,260,603** gallons of groundwater were treated and 3 gallons of LNAPL were removed.

Staff Participated In California Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Forum

Yue Rong

Los Angeles Regional Board staff from the Underground Storage Tank Program participated in platform presentations at the California CUPA Forum, held in Garden Grove from February 4 to 7, 2013. Dr. Weixing Tong, David Bjostad, and Dr. Yue Rong made presentations on contaminant plume length modeling, contaminant natural attenuation parameter evaluation, and underground tank enforcement, respectively.